

The opioid crisis has been devastating communities across the nation for far too long. We need to take immediate steps to reduce the overprescribing of opioids and ensure patients have access to non-addictive pain management options.

Among the actions we can take to prevent addiction is to remove perceived financial incentives for doctors to prescribe generic opioids instead of non-opioid alternative drugs and medical devices, which are typically more expensive. I am pleased to see the text of my bill, H.R. 5778—Promoting Outpatient Access to Non-Opioid Treatments Act, incorporated into H.R. 6110, to address this issue. The legislation instructs CMS to identify possible payment barriers in the Medicare program and consequently asks the Secretary to consider appropriate revisions to the reimbursement structure. It is a commonsense solution to guarantee doctors have the best tools available to deter opioid dependence.

By examining ways to expand the use of non-opioid alternatives in Medicare, we can help cut the problem off at the source, while still being sensitive to patients' pain management needs. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this bill and urge its immediate passage.

HONORING WULFGANG LAWSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Wolfgang Lawson. Wulf is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 288, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Wulf has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Wulf has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Wulf has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Wolfgang for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING CARMEN DEVRIES
FOR HER STATE TITLE IN THE
CLASS 1A 400-METER DASH

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Carmen DeVries, as the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Class 1 A 400 meter dash gold medalist in the 2018 track and field state championships.

This was DeVries' fourth trip to the state championships, and she was determined to go home with a gold medal her senior year. She

persevered and completed the 400 meter dash with a first place time of 57.04 seconds. In the same competition, she also achieved a bronze medal in the triple jump, stretching for 37ft., 4¼ inches in the Class 1A triple jump. DeVries also earned her personal best time in the 400 meters with a time of 57.95 seconds, which set the new school record at Lena-Winslow High School. I want to commend this student athlete on her tremendous accomplishments and work ethic. It takes a great deal of discipline and talent to be awarded such titles. The great state of Illinois is very proud that our small towns produce giant athletes.

Mr. Speaker, I want to again formally acknowledge Carmen DeVries on winning the first place title in the IHSA state competition for the 400 meter dash. I join the community in congratulating her and we look forward to seeing her future achievements.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KATHERINE M. CLARK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, last night inclement weather caused travel delays, and as a result I missed roll call vote number 269. Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

HONORING AARON D. NERO, JR.

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Aaron D. Nero, Jr. Aaron is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 288, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Aaron has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Aaron has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Aaron has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Aaron for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO EAGLE SCOUT
NICHOLAS CORDES

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Nicholas Cordes of Avoca, Iowa for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Nicholas is a member of Boy Scouts Troop No. 97 in Avoca, and he is a student at AHSTW High School in Avoca.

The Eagle Scout designation is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about 5 percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained over the past century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Nicholas's Eagle Scout Project was the painting of the large picnic shelter in Avoca's Edgington Memorial Park. The work ethic Nicholas has shown in his Eagle Project, and every other project leading to his Eagle Scout rank, speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent Nicholas and his family in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in congratulating him on obtaining the Eagle Scout ranking, and I wish him continued success in his future education and career.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for Roll Call votes 269, 270 and 271 on Tuesday, June 19, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call votes 269 and 270, and Nay on Roll Call vote 271.

HONORING PATRICK STEINKAMP

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Patrick Steinkamp. Patrick is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 288, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Patrick has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Patrick has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Patrick has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Patrick for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.